

December 3, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
Attn: Chairman Tom Wheeler
CC: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We're writing to urge you to protect the Open Internet by continuing to use the successful light-touch regulatory approach that has resulted in today's dynamic Internet ecosystem. Adopting Title II regulations would have a negative impact on consumers, innovation, and tech startups.

As members of Austin's thriving tech community, we are well aware of the direct and adverse effect that burdensome federal regulations (and the resulting new taxes and fees) would have on tech entrepreneurs, startups, and consumers. We support the FCC's stated goals of protecting and upholding the principles of an Open Internet. We believe that it is just as critical to ensure continued innovation and investment, both of which have delivered unprecedented benefits to consumers, communities, and entrepreneurs across Texas.

Adopting regulations created for the monopoly telephone era and applying them to 21st century telecommunications technologies is a recipe for disaster, particularly at a time when it's crucial to incentivize continued network expansion and advances that improve access and speeds.

The calls for reclassification and Title II regulations threaten tech entrepreneurs' ability to innovate and instead introduce legal challenges and a wave of unintended consequences that create uncertainty and unnecessary beaurocracy. The proposed rules wouldn't protect the Open Internet and would instead pose a threat to the thriving ecosystem that benefits people and businesses everywhere.

We're paying close attention now, and we hope your actions will let us get back to the business of developing innovations that improve lives. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert M. Metcalfe
Internet Hall of Fame Pioneer
National Technology Medalist
Member of the National Academy of Engineering



Joel Trammel
Chairman Emeritus
Austin Technology Council



Bryan Menell
CEO, Mahana
Co-Founder, Capital Factory



Rudy Prince
Mentor, Capital Factory



Chelsea McCullough
Executive Director
Texans for Economic Progress



Michael Patton, MD
President & CEO
Medical Innovation Labs